

Fellows



Adi Efal

IFK_Research Fellow

Duration of fellowship

01. March 2010 bis 30. June 2010

Adi Efal

PROJECT TITLE

The Plasticity of the Past: Valuating, Distancing, Alois Riegl and Neo-Kantian Realism

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Adi Efal's project is founded on an examination of the historiographical strategies of the art historian Alois Riegl. Firstly, she suggests a co-examination of Riegl's conception of the dynamics of plastic space (as it appears in his formulations of the "Kunstwollen") vis-à-vis the typology of values he developed in his elaboration of the issue of the formation of attitude towards past monuments. Secondly, she suggests a re-reading of the philosophical undercurrents of Riegl's work, while linking it with central characteristics of the philosophical school known as Neo-Kantian Realism. The notion of "Value" played a major role in the controversies occurring inside the turn-of-the-century Neo-Kantian school. The major issue tackled by most thinkers was: Is it possible to define an objective (and not a relative, neither a subjective, nor an "absolute") value? Or in other words: what is the ontological status of values? Adi Efal aspires to locate Riegl's work in the midst of this controversy, and to suggest that Riegl's work, if read by the premises of Neo-Kantian Realism, furnished a path towards an understanding of real values. The act of Valuating involves an element of Distancing: i.e. an articulation of a (real) relation between a subject and an object. Indeed, Riegl's essay on monuments is an experiment in the dynamics of distancing between the plastic present and the plastic past.

CV

Adi Efal teaches at Tel Aviv University, the Bezalel Academy of Art, and Beit-Berl College. She held post-doctoral positions at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris and the Rosenzweig Center for German-Jewish Culture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Publications

Panofsky's Idea and Auerbach's Figura: Two Iconodulist Philological Experiments, in: The Protocols of the History and Theory Department of the Bezalel Academy, 14, October 2009; Iconology and Iconicity. Towards an Iconic History of Figures, between Erwin Panofsky and Jean-Luc Marion, in: Naharaim. Zeitschrift für deutsch-jüdische Literatur und Kulturgeschichte, I/2/III, 2008; Habitude against itself: Redefining the "Symbol" in Turn-of-the-Century French Visual Symbolist Discourse, in: *Æ*. Canadian Aesthetics Journal, 13, Summer 2007.